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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Mr. William F. Caton
Acting Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Room 222
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Streamlining the International Section 214 Authorization Process and
Tariff Requirements
IB Docket No. 95-118

Dear Mr. Caton:

BT North America Inc. ("BTNA"), by its attorney, submits the following comments in response to the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("Notice") in the proceeding captioned above. In this proceeding, the Commission is proposing to eliminate unnecessary regulatory burdens on international common carriers. BTNA is an international common carrier authorized by the Commission to resell international private line and switched services.¹ Accordingly, BTNA has a direct interest in this proceeding.

BTNA supports the rule modifications that are set forth in the Notice. As the Commission has recognized in this and other proceedings, compliance with regulatory requirements imposes costs on the Commission, the carriers, and the public.² As such, eliminating those requirements that are unnecessary or irrelevant and streamlining those that remain serves the public interest.

The proposals made by the Commission in this proceeding will go far in reducing the burdens of regulatory compliance. The Commission's proposals regarding Section 214 application requirements for resellers are particularly

¹ See BT North America Inc., File No. ITC-93-126, DA 95-120 (released January 30, 1995); BT North America Inc., 9 FCC Rcd 6851 (1994).

² See Tariff Filing Requirements for Nondominant Common Carriers, CC Docket No. 93-36 (Memorandum Opinion and Order), FCC 93-401, released August 18, 1993, at ¶¶22, 42 [hereinafter Domestic Tariff Order]; Policy and Rules Concerning Rates for Competitive Common Carrier Services and Facilities Authorizations Therefor (Second Report and Order), 91 F.C.C. 2d 59, 15 (1982).

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worthy of note. The new rule that sets forth the application requirements for international carriers is a substantial improvement over Section 63.01, which contains many requirements that are repetitious or superfluous as applied to resellers. The new rule eliminates these irrelevant requirements and thus should make it much easier for carriers to develop and the Commission to process Section 214 applications.

The Commission's proposal to allow carriers already authorized to engage in International Simple Resale ("ISR") to serve any country later found equivalent is a welcome proposal as well. The value of having a carrier already found qualified to engage in ISR file an application to resell interconnected private lines to a country already found equivalent is questionable at best. Adoption of this rule will enable carriers to implement ISR to new locations more rapidly and thus to serve their customers more efficiently.³

BTNA also supports the Commission's proposal to permit resellers to resell the services of any authorized unaffiliated common carrier. An entity that is qualified to resell the services of one unaffiliated facilities-based carrier should be equally qualified to resell the services of another. Allowing resale carriers to resell the services of any unaffiliated carrier will reduce administrative burdens by eliminating the need to file and process additional Section 214 applications.

In the Notice, the Commission solicits comment on possible modifications to its tariff requirements for nondominant international carriers. BTNA urges the Commission to streamline further its tariffing requirements for resale carriers by reducing the notice period and relaxing form and content requirements as discussed in the Notice. Streamlining tariff requirements for international resellers will promote price competition and accelerate the introduction of new services. As the Commission recognized in adopting similar requirements for nondominant interstate carriers, streamlined tariff requirements will result in more diverse and lower cost service offerings for the public.⁴


³ BTNA notes that there is precedent for these proposals in the Commission's grant of "blanket" Section 214 authorizations to carriers providing transborder satellite services. In a single grant of authority, carriers can obtain permission to provide any and all transborder satellite telecommunications services that have already been or will in the future be consulted under Article XIV(d) of the INTELSAT Agreement, serving any country that has already been or in the future will be consulted for transborder service under Article XIV(d), and using any satellite that has already been or will in the future be consulted for transborder service under Article XIV(d). See, e.g., Hughes Communications Galaxy Corp., 6 FCC Rcd 297 (1991). Similarly, blanket authorizations granted for Intelsat Business Service allow the carrier to serve any country that is or may be listed in Comsat's tariff. See Common Carrier Bureau's International Facilities Division Releases General Guidelines for International Section 214 Applications, Report No. I-6837, released August 4, 1995, at 3.

⁴ See Domestic Tariff Order, *supra* note 2, at ¶142.

As discussed herein, implementation of the rule modifications proposed in the Notice will reduce the cost of regulatory compliance and thus will serve the public interest. Accordingly, the Commission should proceed promptly to adopt the rule modifications it has proposed.

Respectfully Submitted,

BT NORTH AMERICA INC.

By: 
Joan M. Griffin
Its Attorney